

January 28, 2011

This past nine-month furlough was a time when we saw what a super group of friends and family God has given us, though it flew by way too fast! We are also awed and thankful for the extra gifts given to us recently, which we really needed for shipping, traveling, and settling back into Papua New Guinea (which we are still doing:-)).

Bless you for praying!!! We arrived back safely in Ukarumpa on Friday, January 14th just before 5 pm. On the following Monday morning, I (Rich) and ten other translators started attending a five-day typesetting class, learning and becoming approved to use a Bible Society high-end book typesetting software. This software could have saved well over a month of time over the last 4-year field term as I laid out our various Scripture books. **We praise the Lord that we are now approved to use this Bible Society/SIL Scripture Typesetting software to speed up our work!**

While I attended class full-time our first week back to PNG, Joyce was busy unpacking everything from storage, getting things organized again, shopping and feeding us. This meant that we had to postpone lots of things, including fixing the boarded-up bathroom window due to an attempted break-in December 2. (The robbers broke a pane of glass and bent the window frame that held the louvered windows. However, because we had glued the window panes into the frames before going on furlough, the pane had to be smashed multiple times before they could even try to bend the window bars behind the glass. So they gave up and broke into a neighboring house, but not without leaving us with another 4-hour fix-it job).

Please pray for the many fix-it jobs to do yet and for our computer equipment to behave! One example of a time-using black hole has been two misbehaving DVD drives on our main desktop computers that are not seeing DVDs or producing CDs currently. The problem developed right before furlough about the time we produced our short furlough video (the Youtube link is below if you have not seen it already). It is clearly software-related, but attempts at internet searches, work in the regedit file, and running Roxio fix programs are not solving the problem yet. Both drives are needed to produce CDs for our people group.

It has been great seeing our team members this week and hearing how God has worked in their lives over the last 9 months (more later). I had to remind myself that I'm here to serve as I walked up to a friend and noticed him spitting on his hands and rubbing them to clean them immediately before he reached his wet hand out to shake my hand. Speaking of passing on viruses, I found 46 computer viruses on my previously-clean memory stick that I'd just unplugged from a laptop computer that one of our team members had used these last nine months to prepare the Kamano book of Acts in script form. He divided up the 1007 verses of Acts and carefully placed them in the script for the recording of the **Acts video, which we are scheduled to start recording February 1**. We expect the 721 different sections that need to be individually recorded to take about three weeks. ***Please pray that the 3 dozen people chosen for the Acts recording will: (1) be on time; (2) be able to read fluently and pack their words into the seconds allotted by the Acts video script (many are new readers); and (3) grow in the***

Lord through their participation, and continue to live lives worthy of the Lord. With 86 thousand people in the language group some of their voices will be recognized by their fellow villagers who will watch the video.

For those of you who keep stats, our flight from San Francisco to Sydney took 14 hours and one minute. At last, on our 5th and last flight to reach Ukarumpa, we got to fly on a Kodiak plane!! As a matter of fact, our mission now has TWO Kodiaks! It was so awesome to see both fully loaded in Port Moresby and taxi out together for the 1.5 hour flight to Ukarumpa, in the Eastern Highlands. What an amazing tool the Christian community has worked together to provide for missions. Thank you to many of you who have tithed to make this airplane a reality! **We praise the Lord that all our luggage arrived quickly in Ukarumpa. Also, give praise to the Lord with us for the amazing change in a group of girls in Christa's class since one of Christa's national classmates died in July. As we drove up to our house, a formerly cliquish group of girls ran as a group around the house to greet Christa, and they had put up a welcome banner with balloons and baked a cake!** Christa has been enjoying being back with her friends and cats, and is being disciplined with LOTS more homework (and internet research) than she had to do on furlough.

Please take note of the new way of writing our PNG address (below). Please change the box number to 1, put our former box (428) in parentheses and remove SIL from the address.

Serving together with you,

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Where would YOU be without the Word of God in YOUR language?